

In addition to the six two-monthly meetings during the past year, the Council has held two extraordinary meetings and a number of meetings to consider planning applications as occasion has arisen.

TREES

The planting of trees has frequently appeared on the agenda of the meetings. Much of the land in the village is owned by the County Council who are carrying out their own replanting scheme, but the Parish Council has planted or will shortly plant on the following sites:

1. The single elm on the Longworth Road: A beech with conifers to protect it until it is properly established.
2. Verge on Buckland Road: Four beeches.
3. Ock Bridge Green: A Lime.

Other trees will be planted when suitable sites can be found. The District Council has given us five limes which are at present being fostered by Mr & Mrs Bradshaw.

As representatives of the community the Council is most grateful to those individuals who have planted trees on public land.

OVERHEAD WIRES

When the SEB placed overhead wires above the limes on the Village Green they undertook not to cut the trees (which were planted to commemorate the jubilee of King George V) when they grew to the height of the wires. This undertaking had, however, been forgotten by 1978 when the Board lopped one of the trees. The Parish Council thus got in touch with the Board, whose representatives are now arranging for the removal of the wires, and also the pole which will improve the general appearance of the Green.

ROADS

The Council has repeatedly protested to the Highway Authority about the unsatisfactory and even dangerous state of many of the roads in the vicinity. The problem for the Authority is how to carry out the repairs satisfactorily without making a substantial increase in the County rates, but it is hoped that constant pressure will lead to some improvement in the present standard.

THE BUS SERVICE

The Bus Company proposed to discontinue the Wednesday service to Wantage, but the Council protested and the Company then decided to continue the Service, though this necessitates a subsidy of £24 a day.

The Bus Shelter has at last become the property of the Parish Council, and the necessary deeds are being placed at Reading, which is the present repository for other documents concerning the village.

OCK BRIDGE GREEN

In response to a demand from residents in the Village the Council agreed to provide steps for children to get down the bank to the river, and an order was made. The work has been delayed in order to get the most suitable type of stone for the steps and also by the weather, but it should shortly be completed.

OTHER WORK

Other work carried out by the Council has included a revision of the Insurance to cover Parish property, including the Village Hall, the cutting of grass on the various Greens, the care of Rights of Way and consideration of Planning Applications. Various members have attended meetings of the Association of Local Councils and meetings with the officials of the District Council. Members of the Parish Council are not paid, and attend these meetings at their own expense.

Finally, the Parish Council is always ready to consider the individual problems of residents, and will do its best to meet all reasonable requirements. The Council would like, with the co-operation of the Village, to enter the Best Kept Village Competition in 1980.

Why not attend the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall at 8.00 pm on Monday 23 April? This is your annual opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.

V A Hodgkins

Chairman

John Jevons

Clerk